YEAR OF THE VILLAIN • THE OFFER

DC

13

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JONES
BLANCO
PETRUS
KALISZ

CATWOMAN™

BLOODLETTING!

BATMAN

Written by
TOM KING

Art by
TONY S. DANIEL

THE DARK KNIGHT USED TO PROTECT GOTHAM CITY.

"City of Bane" begins
in BATMAN #75

on sale in JULY!

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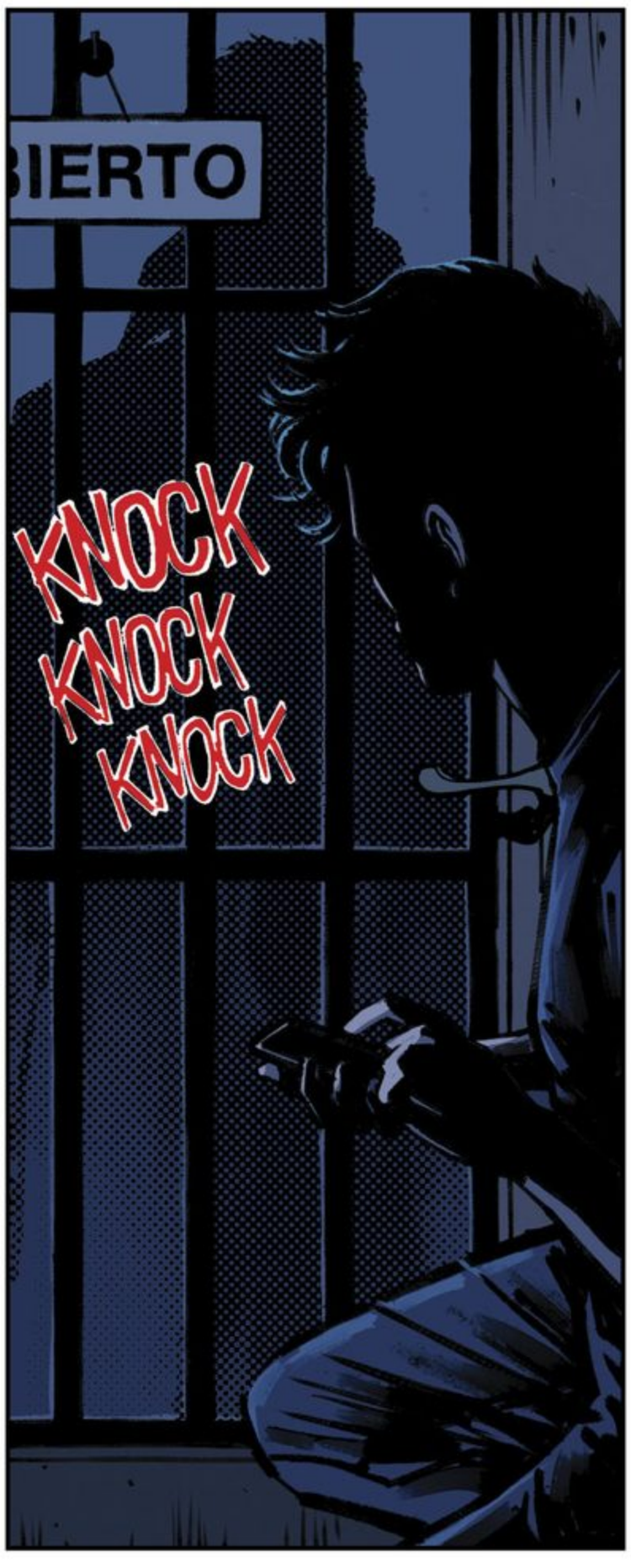
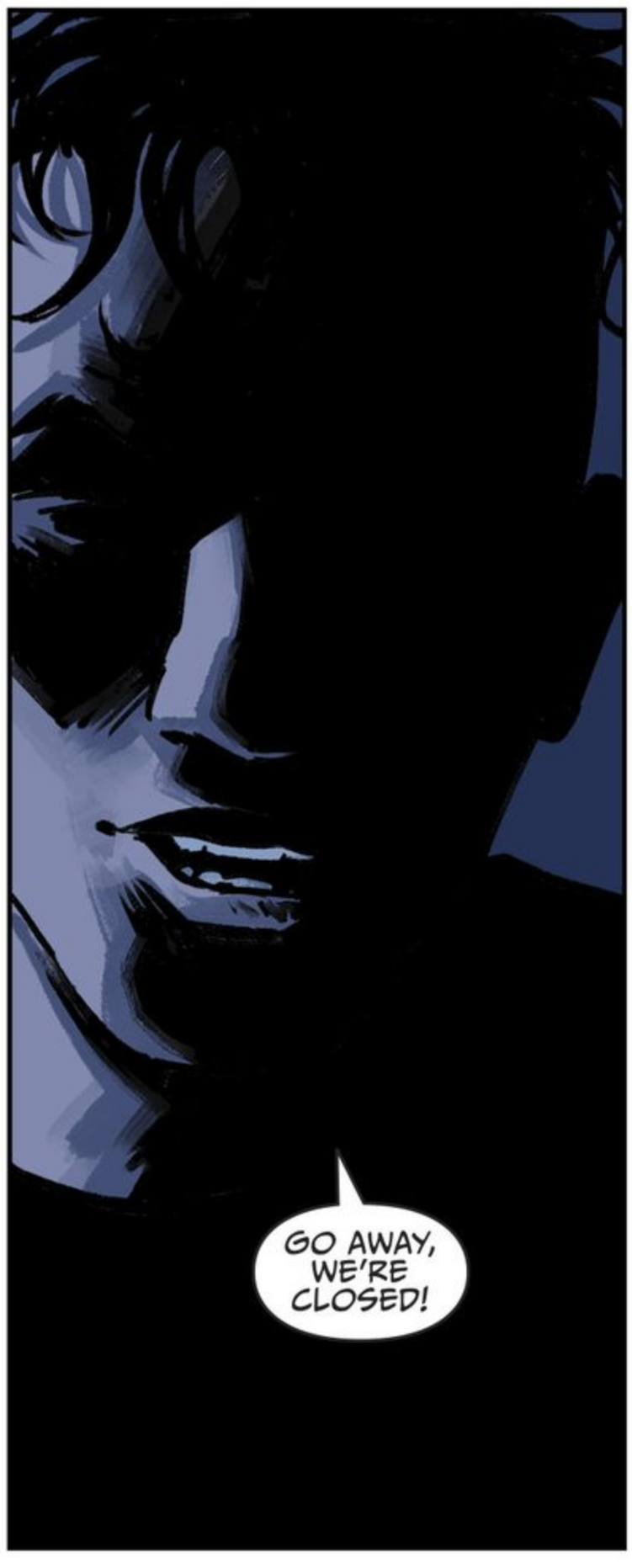

KNOCK
KNOCK
KNOCK


GO AWAY, WE'RE CLOSED!

KNOCK
KNOCK

SELINA, WAIT!

DIDN'T YOU HEAR ME? I *SAID* WE'RE CLOSED!

OUR CITY IS IN A CRISIS. CRIME AND CORRUPTION HAVE TAKEN HOLD AND IT'S DISRUPTING OUR WAY OF LIFE IN VILLA HERMOSA...

PLEASE!

WHAT DO YOU WANT?

WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

ONE CANDIDATE CAN AND WILL STAND UP AND FIGHT FOR YOU!

I SAID--

HIYA, KID.

I'M LOOKING FOR LINDA. WHAT ARE *YOU* DOING?

WE CAN LIVE IN A WORLD WHERE YOU NO LONGER NEED TO LOOK OVER YOUR SHOULDER. WHERE FEAR IS REPLACED BY HOPE.

SEEMS TO ME LIKE I'M JUST CHASING YOUR TAIL WHILE YOU RUN CIRCLES AROUND THE CITY. WHY DON'T YOU COME BACK TO THE STUDIO WITH ME, AND WE CAN--

YOU GONNA LET ME IN?

DO YOU HAVE MY AUNT LINDA?

I MIGHT... IF YOU HAVE THE RELIC.

I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT.

JAMES. STOP.

I DON'T WANT TO BE CRUEL BUT YOUR INVOLVEMENT IN MY LIFE HAS REACHED THE POINT OF BEING MORE EFFORT THAN IT'S WORTH.

I HAD A GOOD TIME WITH YOU, BUT RIGHT NOW YOU NEED TO TAKE YOUR DAMNED HAND OFF ME AND LET ME BE ON MY WAY.

ABIERTO

THUMP

RAYMOND CREEL. TAKING A STAND FOR YOU!

HEY, NO NEED TO CUT ME DOWN. I WAS ONLY TRYING TO HELP.

I...

WHERE YOU GOING, KID? NOT DONE TALKING WITH YOU YET.

HUH!

YOU LITTLE &*$#!

FOR MAYOR

I'M RAYMOND CREEL, AND I APPROVE THIS MESSAGE.

FANTASTIC! YOU LOOKED GREAT, RAY!

...DON'T WANT YOUR HELP.

WHACK

KRACK

ENOUGH!

WUMP

THAT'S ENOUGH!

FOR NOW, ANYWAY.

WE SHOULD GIVE THE BOY A CHANCE TO SPEAK, DON'T YOU THINK, DETECTIVE YILMAZ?

=HUFF= =HUFF= READY TO TALK?

SERIOUSLY?! CAN'T YOU TAKE A HINT?

CUT IT OUT, SELINA. I NEVER ASKED YOU FOR ANYTHING. I JUST--

--WE HAD A SPARK, YOU AND ME, AND I KNOW YOU FELT IT--

STOP.

STOP. I DIDN'T COME HERE FOR THIS. FOR *ANY* OF THIS! I...I JUST NEEDED A PLACE TO ESCAPE TO. I NEVER MEANT FOR ANYONE TO GET HURT OR TO GET INVOLVED.

WHAT ARE YOU RUNNING AWAY FROM IN GOTHAM?

I'M SORRY, JAMES, I JUST CAN'T PLAY ALONG.

I WISH I COULD...

SO IS THIS THE PART WHERE WE UNBURDEN OUR SOULS TO EACH OTHER, AND YOU TELL ME EVERYTHING WILL BE ALL RIGHT? AND WHAT? *FIX ME?* FIND A WAY TO CUT OUT THE PART OF ME THAT NEEDS OTHER PEOPLE? THAT NEEDS... WELL...

...BUT YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO FIND SOME OTHER BROKEN GIRL TO FIX.

IF WE ESCHEW VIOLENCE, I'M SURE THAT WE CAN REACH A WIN-WIN CONCLUSION THROUGH CONVERSATION.

HELLO, MR. CARLOS, MY NAME IS RAINA CREEL.

...BUT I SUPPOSE A MOTHER'S LOVE IS BLIND...RIGHT, MISS LINDA?

YOU DON'T LOOK EXACTLY LIKE WHAT I EXPECTED...

PLEASE, JUST DON'T HURT HIM!

YOU NEED TO LEAVE OR--

JUST A SIMPLE EXCHANGE, LITTLE CARLOS, AND WE WILL BE ON OUR WAY. THE RELIC FOR YOUR AUNT.

SIMPLY GIVE US WHAT WE WANT, AND I PROMISE TO NEVER DARKEN YOUR DOORSTEP AGAIN.

I HOPE I SEE YOU SOON, SELINA.

DRIP

!!

MY GOD! IT LOOKS LIKE A MAP!

CRACKLE

FLCKR

WAIT-- WHERE DID IT GO?

RRRRR!!!

STAY AWAY FROM THEM!

I'VE REALLY HAD JUST ABOUT ENOUGH OF YOU!

AARGHH!

MRS. CREEL!

MIJO!

LEAVE US ALONE!

AAAH!
EEEE

I REGRET THE WAY THINGS WORKED OUT BETWEEN US...

...BUT VILLA HERMOSA BELONGS TO *ME*. YOU'D BE SMART TO REMEMBER THAT.

SHOULD YOU LIVE.

OH MY GOD! CAT!

TCHK

YOU'RE THE MAN, RAY!
YEAH! MR. MAYOR RAY!
HA! SEE YOU GUYS AT THE OFFICE BRIGHT AND EARLY!
WHAT SHOULD WE DO WITH HIM?
HEYA, RAY.
DR. FINICK? WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
YOUR MOTHER WANTS TO SEE YOU.
DON'T WORRY, YOU JUST GET MS. KYLE UPSTAIRS.
I'LL TAKE CARE OF *HIM*.
AGAIN?
YOU TELL HER FROM ME THAT I WON'T DO ANY MORE CROOKED CRAP FOR HER. GOT IT?
1205
HMF!

Governor's Mansion.

CREEL

THAT YOU, RAY? I'M IN *HERE*, DARLING!

RAYMOND!

I *KNOW*, DEAR, AND I'M *SORRY*, COULDN'T BE HELPED. HAVE YOU BEEN DRINKING?

MOTHER, I SPECIFICALLY TOLD YOU THAT I HATE IT WHEN YOU SEND YOUR LACKEYS TO FETCH ME!

MAYBE ONE OR TWO. CELEBRATING THE CAMPAIGN'S SUCCESSES. WAIT, SOMETHING SEEMS DIFFERENT ABOUT YOU...

OH? WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

YOU SEEM...MORE PLEASANT THAN USUAL.

CHEERFUL ALMOST.

WELL, I *AM*, DARLING!

I'M HAPPY FOR YOU, BUT WHAT'S BROUGHT THIS ABOUT? AND WHY SEND FOR ME IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT?

IT'S NOTHING, REALLY. I JUST THOUGHT IT WOULD BE NICE FOR THE TWO OF US TO HAVE SOME ONE-ON-ONE TIME AND CATCH UP.

MOSTLY I JUST WANTED TO TELL YOU HOW VERY ***PROUD*** OF YOU I AM, AND THAT YOU ARE MY SON.

GOSH, OKAY...WELL, THANKS. UM, YOU, TOO...I GUESS.

I'M PROUD OF THE MAN YOU HAVE BECOME, AND NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS, SWEETHEART, I WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT.

OF COURSE, SURE I--

SO VERY PROUD!

WHA--?!

=HURKK--=

ISN'T IT *BEAUTIFUL*, MY PRECIOUS BOY? LOOK, ALL THE MAP NEEDED TO LINGER WAS A GOOD OLD-FASHIONED *BLOOD SACRIFICE!*

FAR FROM GOTHAM

JOËLLE JONES STORY
FERNANDO BLANCO ART (1-14, 19)
HUGO PETRUS ART (15-18)
JOËLLE JONES ART (20-22)
JOHN KALISZ COLORS (1-19)
LAURA ALLRED COLORS (20-22)

SAIDA TEMOFONTE LETTERING
JOËLLE JONES & LAURA ALLRED MAIN COVER
STANLEY "ARTGERM" LAU VARIANT COVER
HARVEY RICHARDS ASSOCIATE EDITOR
JAMIE S. RICH EDITOR

VVVVRRRRRMMMMM

WHRRRR

SELINA KYLE...

WHAT THE HELL--?!

IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE YOU LAST SAW ME, CATWOMAN.

LEX LUTHOR? WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU?!

MANY A GREAT THING. IT'S AMAZING WHAT CAN BE DONE WHEN YOU ACCEPT WHO YOU REALLY ARE.

HOW ABOUT YOU, SELINA? THE WORLD IS HEADING FOR A BIG CHANGE. ARE YOU DONE PLAYING GAMES AND READY TO ACCEPT WHO **YOU** ARE?

BECAUSE I HAVE SOMETHING TO HELP WITH THAT...

Find out what LUTHOR offers CATWOMAN in two months...but first, come back in August for

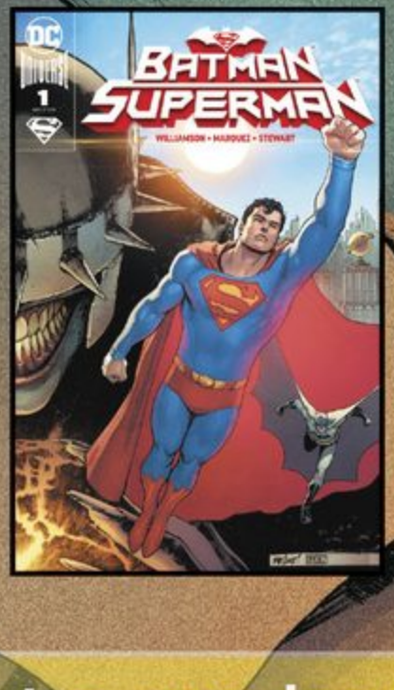
HERMOSA HEAT PART 1 !!

CAN THEY DISCOVER WHICH HEROES
THE BATMAN WHO LAUGHS HAS INFECTED
...BEFORE THEY DESTROY THE DC UNIVERSE?

BATMAN SUPERMAN

Written by JOSHUA WILLIAMSON Art by DAVID MARQUEZ

Get the Batman cover
OR the Superman version!



Turn the page to check out a preview of the first issue!

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BATMAN SUPERMAN #1

Sneak Preview

IS THIS...?

IT'S *HIS* BATCAVE.

WHERE DID YOU GET YOUR INFORMATION ON THIS *OTHER BATMAN?*

HE TOLD ME HIMSELF.

WHEN I WAS A ROOKIE AT THE *DAILY PLANET*, PERRY USED TO TELL ME, "ALWAYS CONSIDER YOUR SOURCE."

-TT-

NO SIGNS OF DANNY, BUT THIS IS WHERE GORDON WAS HELD.

WE'LL GET DANNY HOME, BATMAN.

Y'KNOW, I ALWAYS THOUGHT OF *YOUR* BATCAVE AS A GLIMPSE INTO YOUR MIND.

THE FIRST TIME YOU BROUGHT ME THERE I SAW THE DINOSAUR, THE GIANT PENNY, THE COLLECTION OF BAT-MOBILES--

MEMENTOS OF YOUR PAST VICTORIES...

...AND FAILURES.

IT SHOWED ME HOW SENTIMENTAL YOU ARE.

YOU MEAN *HUMAN.*

I MEAN YOU ARE *NOTHING* LIKE THIS BATMAN WHO LAUGHS.

I WISH THAT WERE TRUE...

BATMAN created by Bob Kane with Bill Finger.
SUPERMAN created by Jerry Siegel and Joe Shuster by special arrangement with the Jerry Siegel Family.

DC Sneak Preview

...BUT I RECOGNIZE MY OWN HANDI-WORK.

BATARANG MOLDS?

THE SERUM HE CREATED WHEN HE KIDNAPPED GORDON AND KILLED THE *OTHER* BRUCE WAYNES WAS SIMILAR IN COMPOSITION TO THE TOXIN THAT TRANSFORMED HIM INTO THE BATMAN WHO LAUGHS.

ANALYSIS:

TRACES OF THAT SERUM...

...MERGED WITH *NTH METAL.*

100% MATCH

WHY BRING GORDON HERE? SEND SOMEONE TO KIDNAP DANNY MILLS?

HE HAD TO KNOW YOU'D FIND HIS BATCAVE. MAYBE THAT WAS THE POINT.

IF YOU'RE RIGHT AND HE'S JUST LIKE YOU, THAT MEANS HE HIDES THINGS IN PLAIN SIGHT, RIGHT?

THIS IS A MESSAGE.

BOTH SIDES ARE AT A DRAW.

ANY MOVE FROM EITHER PLAYER WOULD RESULT IN A LOSS.

PA AND I USED TO PLAY EVERY SUNDAY AFTER FOOTBALL.

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN WE STOP PLAYING THE BATMAN WHO LAUGHS' GAMES?

BEEP

DC Sneak Preview

ISSSSSHHH

THE JUSTICE LEAGUE. THE TITANS, TEEN TITANS. MY GOD... IT'S...

...EVERYONE.

ANY OF THEM COULD POTENTIALLY BE TARGETS FOR HIS INFECTED BATARANGS... CHANGED INTO A MONSTER LIKE HIM.

THIS IS BIGGER THAN GOTHAM, BATMAN.

YOU SAID "POTENTIALLY"...

...BUT WHAT IF HE'S *ALREADY* POISONED PEOPLE WE KNOW?

THIS IS WHY HE WANTED US HERE. WE'D QUESTION EVERYONE. OUR FRIENDS. OUR FAMILIES.

SO WE'D HAVE NO IDEA *WHO* WE CAN TRUST.

DC Sneak Preview

CAW!

NGH.

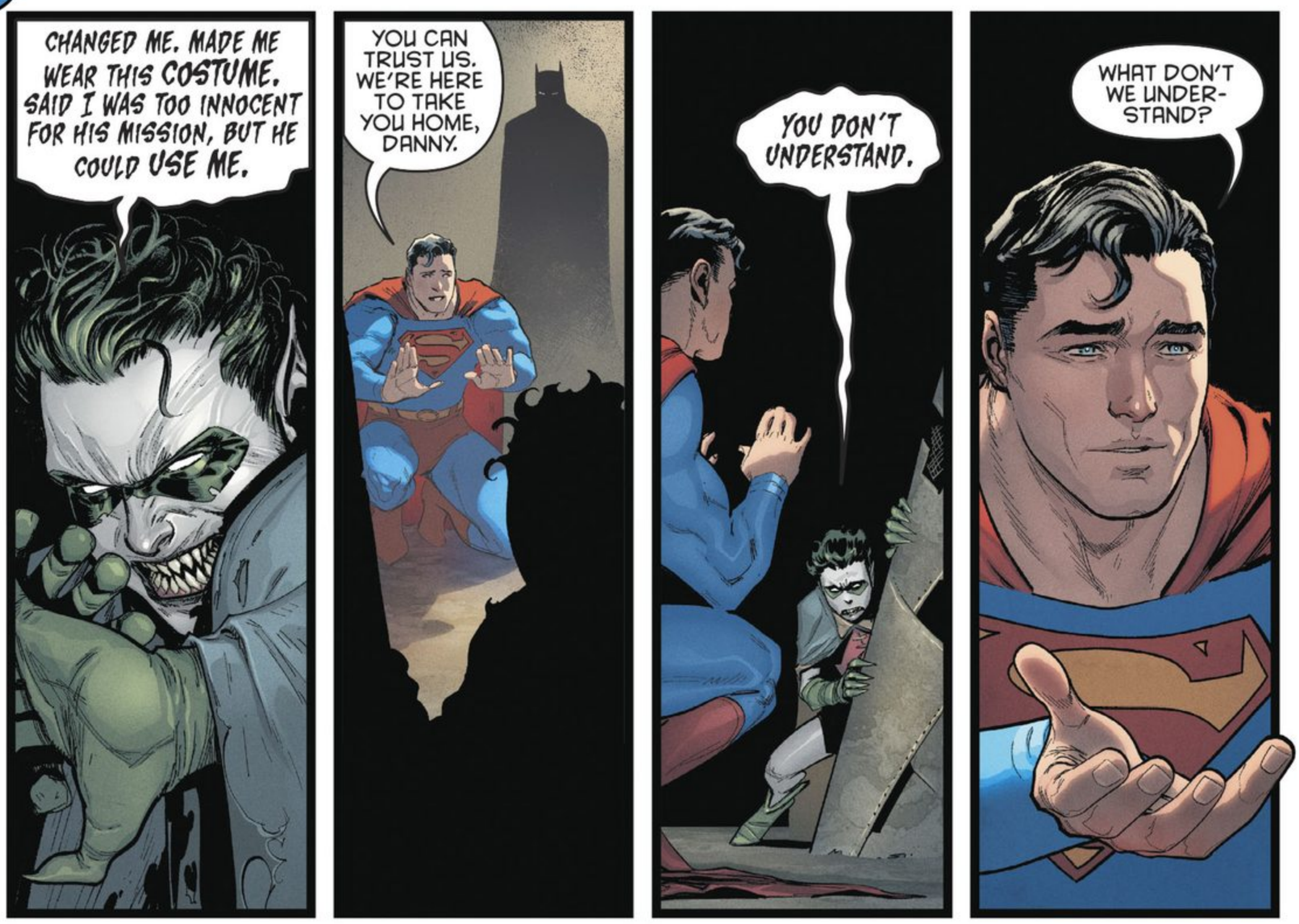
CAW! CAW! CAW!

ONE OF HIS ROBINS?! BUT WHERE DID HE--

TOOK ME FROM MY FAMILY.

HIT ME WITH A BATARANG.

DC Sneak Preview


CHANGED ME. MADE ME WEAR THIS COSTUME. SAID I WAS TOO INNOCENT FOR HIS MISSION, BUT HE COULD USE ME.
YOU CAN TRUST US. WE'RE HERE TO TAKE YOU HOME, DANNY.
YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND.
WHAT DON'T WE UNDER-STAND?

To be Continued in

BATMAN SUPERMAN #1

On Sale in August

BATMAN
CURSE OF THE WHITE KNIGHT

DC BLACK LABEL

A DC NATION INTERVIEW WITH WRITER/ARTIST SEAN MURPHY

What can you tell us about the story?
If you think Jack Napier was unhinged in BATMAN: WHITE KNIGHT, that's nothing compared to what Joker does with Azrael in BATMAN: CURSE OF THE WHITE KNIGHT. As Bruce struggles with the idea of telling Gotham the identity of Batman, Joker threatens to expose a hidden truth about the Wayne family. Something that even Bruce isn't aware of. Something that goes all the way to the founding of Gotham village in 1685.

Why are you excited about this project?
I'm interested in going deep into the past of the Wayne family and how they've come to power in modern-day Gotham. BATMAN: WHITE KNIGHT focused a lot on the present; BATMAN: CURSE OF THE WHITE KNIGHT will focus more on the deep past. And if there's a third series, my plan is to focus on the future of Batman.

What's it like to be both the writer and artist on this series (along with your collaboration with Matt Hollingsworth)?
It's a lot of work, but it's the most satisfying way for me to make comics. Writing the scripts is also a great way to ensure the artwork is the best I can make it. I always put 100 percent into my books, but being the writer makes me strive for 110 percent.

How does this tie into the current DC Universe?
This book is set aside from the current DCU. It's marketed like a Batman movie: a familiar Batman but with a different spin. One that doesn't require the reader to be fluent in 80 years of Batman comics.

Why should fans check this out?
Readers should check this out because it's slightly different from what they're used to reading about Batman. And there aren't many "single vision" mainstream books these days (meaning the writing and art are handled by the same person).

Describe the series in seven words or fewer.
If you miss this, you'll regret it.

What should first-time readers know before picking this up?
Nothing! You can come to this series without ever having read a comic.

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SON OF ULTRON

"THIS FAN... THIS MONSTER!"